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## Letter from Thomas G. Clemson to Elias Baker, 1861 May 28

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"Letter from Thomas G. Clemson to Elias Baker, 1861 May 28" (1861). *Thomas Green Clemson Papers, Mss 2*. 1805.

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God knows what will become  
of us all In the mean time  
for the want of other occupation  
I plant potatoes & read the lying  
papers and try to get a spark  
of truth out of the thousand  
one rumours that float for the  
day the one perhaps of false  
& absurd as the other -

In the mean time we are well  
& I in common with the rest  
deplore the enfeeblement of a  
set of men that are plunging  
the country into civil war that  
may carry us back to what was  
in the dark ages -

We should be very pleased to see  
you & I particularly to receive  
your instruction in farming  
Love to all yours affectionately

P. Baker Esq - This E. Newman

The Home May 28<sup>th</sup> 1861

My dear Sir

In answer to your kind  
letter of the 26<sup>th</sup> inst I have to say that  
as it is most prudent for me to stay  
at home or rather not to show myself  
in Washington there had to hint to  
be granted the information you request  
The house of Barr & Co they say is a  
respectable house and one that is responsible  
they keep store on E<sup>th</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> near the  
avenue - They much there been  
warned and my informant made  
particular cognizance of several  
pairing in Washington -

As to myself I said before it  
becomes me not to show my face  
often where there are so many pressing  
interests in supporting a Union

that to all intents & purposes is  
defunct. There appears to be no  
liberty of thought allowed & left supposed  
to be expressed and as they have  
dubbed me a traitor in the  
Yankee papers. I do not know what  
dictator Lincoln might take  
it in his head to visit upon me.

But as to my talking to you about  
potatoes I have no doubt you do

not desire any such communication  
I know nothing more than what

the papers contain and fear that  
we are in for a long & bloody  
war the termination of which  
no man can foresee. particularly  
if the intention be persevered in  
of forcing & coercing a Union  
of these dissimilar States.

Both sides are unanimous

The one appears to be so on the score  
of interest the other on the score of  
principle. — The one party desires  
to be left alone, and pursue their  
avocations peacefully, the other will  
wrest that they should do as they say.

The north are desperate and as far  
as I know them will never sub-  
mit as long as there be a man  
woman or child to hold up the  
flag of Liberty. —

Thank you for your kind infor-  
mation but at the present jun-  
cture of affairs I can not leave  
home for I do not know how  
soon I may be driven hence, if  
I could leave my family I fear that  
my name however little known  
any where might be sufficiently  
so to call down harsh treatment  
of I ventured into a loyal or  
State of Pennsylvania. —